

Remarks

Entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, and 31-37 remain pending.

Applicants are providing the above amendments in a bona fide attempt to further prosecution of this application, and not in acquiescence to any of the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims prior to amendment are patentable over the references cited, and applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue that subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

In the Office Action, dated January 14, 2010, claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Without acquiescing to this rejection, applicants have amended claim 36 above to explicitly recite words used in the application (see, e.g., paragraphs 80 and 81). While applicants believe that this amendment was unnecessary, applicants have amended the claim to further prosecution of this application. Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection of claim 36.

Further, claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Again, while applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, applicants have amended the claim to remove the word "method". Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 34.

In addition to the above, claims 32, 35 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowable subject matter; however, at this time, applicants have not rewritten those claims in independent form, since applicants believe that other aspects of their invention are also patentable. Applicants reserve the right to rewrite these claims in independent form at a later date.

Moreover, claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 31, 33, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siamak et al. (EP 0,969,371 A1) in view of Nucci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,394,760). Applicants respectfully, but most strenuously, traverse this rejection to any extent deemed applicable to the amended claims.

While applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Siamak and Nucci does not describe, teach or suggest one or more aspects of applicants' claimed invention prior to amendment, to further prosecution of this application, applicants have amended the independent claims to include "choosing the second identifier for which mapping is to occur from a plurality of second identifiers, the choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource" (e.g., previous dependent claim 7). Applicants respectfully submit that at least this aspect of applicants' claimed invention is not described, taught or suggested in either Siamak or Nucci, alone or in combination.

Siamak reads device identifiers from storage devices in a computer system and uses the device identifiers to create a mapping associating the device identifiers with corresponding physical paths to the storage devices. Upon reconfiguration of the storage devices, the computer system again reads device identifiers from storage devices in order to verify that the system was reconfigured correctly. So, in Siamak, when there is a reconfiguration, the system uses a mapping file to determine if there was a mistake made during the reconfiguration. There is, however, no description, teaching or suggestion in Siamak of one or more features of applicants' claimed invention, including, for instance, choosing a second identifier based on a priority.

It is explicitly admitted in the Office Action, dated April 9, 2009, that Siamak fails to disclose priority (see, e.g., page 5). Further, the current Office Action fails to mention where Siamak discloses the use of priority. The Office Action merely cites paragraph 21 of Siamak, which describes that there may be multiple physical pathways to storage devices. There is no description at all of priority. Since Siamak fails to disclose priority, and in particular, fails to describe, teach or suggest applicants' claimed element of choosing the second identifier for which mapping is to occur from a plurality of second identifiers, the choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource,

applicants respectfully submit that Siamak fails to describe, teach or suggest one or more aspects of applicants' claimed invention.

Further, Nucci fails to overcome the deficiencies of Siamak. Nucci also fails to describe, teach or suggest at least applicants' claimed element of choosing the second identifier for which mapping is occur from a plurality of second identifiers, the choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource. There is no discussion in Nucci of selecting identifiers based on a priority. The failure of Nucci to teach or suggest this aspect of applicants' claimed invention is evident in the Office Action which fails to even mention Nucci when rejecting previous dependent claim 7.

Since both Siamak and Nucci fail to describe, teach or suggest at least this aspect of applicants' claimed invention, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for independent claim 1. Moreover, applicants respectfully request that if the §103 rejection is maintained that a proper rejection be provided. Although applicants specifically recite choosing an identifier based on priority, the Office Action fails to describe where such a claimed element is taught in the references. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been provided. Therefore, if the rejection is maintained, applicants respectfully request a more detailed and proper rejection. Thank you.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for independent claim 1, as well as the claims that depend therefrom. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own additional features.

For instance, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 32 is still patentable over the combination of Siamak and Nucci. Dependent claim 32 recites that the another resource is control unit, the resource is a channel, the first identifier is a physical channel identifier and the second identifier is a logical channel identifier, and wherein the automatically mapping includes first selecting the control unit with the highest priority and for that control unit, mapping a physical channel identifier to a logical channel identifier of a channel associated with the control unit. This is not described, taught or suggested in Siamak or Nucci, either alone or in combination.

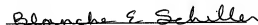
Additionally, independent claim 34 is patentable for similar reasons as described herein. For example, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Siamak and Nucci fails to describe, teach or suggest at least applicants' claimed element of choosing the second identifier for which mapping is to occur from a plurality of second identifiers, the choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource. Thus, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for independent claim 34.

Yet further, independent claim 36 is patentable for similar reasons as described herein. For example, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Siamak and Nucci fails to describe, teach or suggest at least applicants' claimed element of choosing the second identifier for which mapping is to occur from a plurality of second identifiers, the choosing being based on a priority associated with another resource coupled to the resource. Thus, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for independent claim 36.

For all of the above reasons, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with applicants' attorney, please contact applicants' attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,


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